



**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~reassembling~~ reassembling a packet by a  
2 network device, the method comprising the steps of:  
3 locating a fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet; and  
4 placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor asso-  
5 ciated with the packet.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of locating a fragment packet  
2 descriptor associated with the packet further comprises:  
3 locating an entry in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and  
4 dereferencing a pointer held in the entry to locate the fragment packet descriptor.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
2 receiving a request to reassemble the packet.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the request comprises:  
2 an index to an entry in a reassembly table that is associated with the first fragment  
3 of the packet; and  
4 a length value that is a count of the total number of entries in the reassembly table  
5 that are associated with the packet.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2 deallocating the fragment packet descriptor.
- 1 6. (Original) A computer readable medium that includes computer executable in-  
2 structions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

1 7. (Original) An apparatus for reassembling a packet, the apparatus comprising:  
2 means for locating a fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet; and  
3 means for placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet de-  
4 scriptor associated with the packet.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:  
2 means for locating an entry in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and  
3 means for dereferencing a pointer held in the entry to locate the fragment packet  
4 descriptor.

1 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:  
2 means for receiving a request to reassemble the packet.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:  
2 means for deallocating the fragment packet descriptor.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A method for reassembling a packet by a network device,  
2 the method comprising the steps of:  
3 receiving a plurality of fragments associated with the packet;  
4 determining if all the fragments for the packet have been received; and  
5 issuing a request to a reassembly assist function if all the fragments for the packet  
6 have been received.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the request comprises:  
2 an index to an entry in a reassembly table that is associated with the first fragment  
3 of the packet; and  
4 a length value that is a count of the total number of entries in the reassembly table  
5 that are associated with the packet.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining if all frag-  
2 ments for the packet have been received further comprising:

3 examining a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragments have been re-  
4 ceived.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:  
2 tracking a fragment of the packet.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of tracking a fragment of the  
2 packet further comprising the steps of:

3 keeping a copy of a packet handle associated with the fragment in a reassembly  
4 table; and

5 maintaining a location in a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragment has  
6 been received.

1 16. (Original) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instruc-  
2 tions for performing the method recited in claim 11.

1 17. (Original) An apparatus for reassembling a packet, the apparatus comprising:  
2 means for receiving a plurality of fragments associated with the packet;  
3 means for determining if all the fragments for the packet have been received; and  
4 means for issuing a request to a reassembly assist function if all the fragments for  
5 the packet have been received.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:  
2 means for examining a bit map that indicates whether or not the fragments have  
3 been received.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

2 means for tracking a fragment of the packet.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

2 means for keeping a copy of a packet handle associated with the fragment in a  
3 reassembly table; and

4 means for maintaining a location in a bit map that indicates whether or not the  
5 fragment has been received.

1 21. (Original) A system for reassembling a packet, the system comprising:

2 a processor; and

3 a reassembly assist configured to communicate with the processor;

4 whereby the processor receives a plurality of fragments associated with the packet, de-  
5 termines if all the fragments for the packet have been received and issues a request to the  
6 reassembly assist to reassemble the packet.

1 22. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~reassembling~~ reassembling a packet, the  
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated  
4 therewith;

5 placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor ~~in a packet descriptor~~ in a  
6 reassembly table associated with the packet; and

7 in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a re-  
8 assembly assist function.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

2 determining if all fragments have been received.

1 24. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A network device for ~~reassembling~~ reassem-  
2 bling a packet, comprising:

3 means for receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor asso-  
4 ciated therewith;

5 means for placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor ~~in a packet de-~~  
6 ~~scriptor~~ in a reassembly table associated with the packet; and

7 in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, means for issuing a re-  
8 quest to a reassembly assist function.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:  
2 means for determining if all fragments have been received.

1 26. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~reassembling~~ reassembling a packet, com-  
2 prising:

3 a processor receives a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor asso-  
4 ciated therewith;

5 a reassembly assist configured to communicate with the processor, the reassembly  
6 assist adapted to locate the fragment packet descriptor associated with the packet;

7 the processor configured to store a reassembly table, the reassembly table storing  
8 the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a packet descriptor; and

9 in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, the processor issues a re-  
10 quest to a reassembly assist function.

1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:  
2 the reassembly assist determines if all fragments have been received.

1 28. (Cancelled)

1   29.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable media, comprising:  
2           said computer readable media having instructions written thereon for execution on  
3   a processor for the practice of ~~reassembling~~ reassembling a packet, comprising,  
4           receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated  
5   therewith;  
6           placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor ~~in a packet descriptor~~ in a  
7   reassembly table associated with the packet; and  
8           in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a re-  
9   assembly assist function.

1 Please add new claim 30

1 30. (New) A method for reassembling a packet, the method comprising the steps of:  
2 receiving a fragment packet having a fragment packet descriptor associated  
3 therewith;  
4 placing the contents of the fragment packet descriptor in a reassembly table asso-  
5 ciated with the packet; and  
6 in response to receiving all the fragments for the packet, issuing a request to a re-  
7 assembly assist function; the reassembly function:  
8 locating fragments in a fragment packet descriptor, and  
9 reassembling the packet in response to a pointer in the reassembly table.